

REMARKS

Claims 1–25, 40, 60, 68, 76, 78, 80, 82, and 83 are pending in this application.

Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1–25, 40, 60, 76, 78, 80, 82 and 83 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,387,380 to Cima et al (“Cima”). Cima appears to disclose a process for making a component from a powder material by three-dimensional printing. *See* title, abstract. The powder material may be a ceramic, metal, or plastic powder. *See* column 12, lines 11–21.

Cima does not teach or suggest any thermoplastic particulate material, nor does Cima teach or suggest an adhesive particulate material. Cima, thus, does not appear to disclose a powder including a thermoplastic particulate material and an adhesive particulate material, as recited in independent claims 1, 76, 78, and 80. Cima also does not appear to teach or suggest a fluid adapted to activate an adhesive in a powder including thermoplastic and adhesive particulate material, as recited in independent claims 25 and 60. Cima also does not appear to disclose a fluid adapted to activate the adhesive properties of a thermoplastic particulate material, as recited in independent claims 40, 82, and 83.

Applicants submit that for at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 25, 40, 60, 76, 78, 80, 82, and 83, and claims dependent therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

Claims 1–25, 40, 60, 68, 76, 78, 80, 82, and 83 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,902,441 to Bredt et al (“Bredt”). Bredt appears to describe three-dimensional printing materials systems. *See* abstract. Various powder components are described. *See* column 7, line 40 – column 9, line 12. Bredt appears to mention plastic powders only with reference to the prior art. *See* column 1, line 65 and column 2, line 32. Bredt does not teach or suggest thermoplastic particulate materials, as recited in the instant

claims. More particularly, Bredt does not appear to disclose a powder including a thermoplastic particulate material and an adhesive particulate material, as recited in independent claims 1, 76, 78, and 80. Bredt also does not appear to teach or suggest a fluid adapted to activate an adhesive in a powder including thermoplastic and adhesive particulate material, as recited in independent claims 25 and 60. Bredt also does not appear to disclose a fluid adapted to activate the adhesive properties of a thermoplastic particulate material, as recited in independent claims 40, 82, and 83. Moreover, Bredt does not appear to disclose a fluid including water and an amine, wherein the fluid is adapted to activate the adhesive properties of at least a sparingly soluble alkaline-reducible particulate material, as recited in independent claim 68.

Applicants submit that for at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 25, 40, 60, 68, 76, 78, 80, 82, and 83, and claims dependent therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

Claims 76, 78, 80, and 82 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1–26 of Bredt. Bredt discloses three-dimensional printing materials systems, but does not teach or suggest the combination of thermoplastic and adhesive materials; in fact, Bredt does not even teach or suggest thermoplastic materials. In particular, Bredt does not teach or suggest providing a plurality of particles comprising a blend of a thermoplastic particulate material and an adhesive particulate material, as recited in independent claims 76 and 78, nor does Bredt teach or suggest a plurality of thermoplastic particles and an activatable adhesive, as recited in independent claim 80, nor does Bredt teach or suggest providing a plurality of thermoplastic particles, as recited in independent claim 82.

Applicants submit that, for at least these reasons, claims 76, 78, 80, and 82 are patentable over Bredt.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorney would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned attorney at (617) 570-1806.

Applicants believe that no fees are necessitated by the present Response. However, in the event that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to Deposit Account No. 07-1700.

Respectfully submitted,

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Reg. No. 44,381

Tel. No.: (617) 570-1806
Fax No.: (617) 523-1231

Natasha C. Us
Natasha C. Us
Attorney for Applicants
Goodwin Procter LLP
Exchange Place
Boston, Massachusetts 02109